

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /028 W

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P 180630Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 53

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PASS FAA FOR ADMINISTRATOR MC LUCAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR IR

SUBJ: CIVAIR - NEW IRANIAN DGCA HADJMONIRI

REF: TEHRAN 11223

1. ON NOV 16TH ECON COUNSELOR AND EMB CIVAIR OFFICER CALLED TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO NEW IRANIAN DIRGEN OF CIVIL AVIATION MEHDI HADJMONIRI. HADJMONIRI WAS VERY CORDIAL, SAYING HE LOOKED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE IN CIVIL AVIATION AND THAT HE HOPED TO BRING MANY US ADVISORS INTO IRANIAN CIVIL AVIATION.

2. MR HAJMONIRI REAFFIRMED DR ARBABI'S INVITATION FOR FAA AMINISTRATOR MC LUCAS TO VISIT IRAN, AND ASKED FOR DETAILS OF ITINERARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE TOLD HIM TENTATIVE PLANS CALLED FOR A VISIT TO DGCA AND CAO ON DEC 4TH, AS WELL AS PRESENT-ATION OF FAA REPAIR STATION CERTIFICATES TO IRAN AIR AND IRAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES.

3. THE NEW DGCA HAS READ THE FAA STUDY FOR AN INTEGRATED ATC SYSTEMAND SEEMS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS IT. HE HAS NOT YET BROUGHT HIMSELF UP TO DATE ON HIS PREDECESSOR, DR ARABI'S PRO-POSAL TO BRING IN FAA ADVISORS TO STUDY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRO-POSAL. HE MENTIONED THAT HIS NEXT APPOINTMENT WAS WITH BRITISH IBAC

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WITH WHOM HE SEEMED QUITE IRRITATED. HE SAID IBAC'S ORIGINAL

CONTRACT CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EXISTING ATC SYSTEM OVER TWO YEARS BUT IT HAD EXTENDED TO SEVEN YEARS. HE SAID IBAC HAS SUPPLIED POOR EQUIPMENT AT CONSIDERABLE COST OVERRUNS.

4. HADJMONIRI WAS NOT SPECIFIC, BUT HE PLANS CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES. HE MENTIONED BRINGING IAS OFFICERS INTO THE SECURITY AND PLANNING STAFFS OF CAO. HE AFFIRMED THAT THE CAO LEGAL OFFICE WILL CONTINUE TO HANDLE OPERATIONAL FLIGHT AND CHARTER CLEARANCES. HADJMONIRI SEEMS TO PLACE LESS EMPHASIS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR ON REGULATORY FUNCTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE DID NOT SEND HIS DEPUTY, MR ABOLMAALI, TO THE US FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON FARES AND CAPACITY, ON GROUNDS THAT HE NEEDED ABOLMAALI FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND THAT CAPACITY AND FACRES WERE "IRAN AIR'S BUSINESS".

5. HADJMONIRI HOPES TO BREAK UP THE MONOPOLY CONTROL ON GENERAL AVIATION THAT AIR TAXI AND PARS AIR NOW EXERCISE. HE HOPES TO ENCOURAGE FREER COMPETITION AND EASIER MARKETS FOR US LIGHT AND SPORT AIRCRAFT.

6. THE NEW DGCA SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST GRAFT AND CORRUPTION, SAYING THAT IN FUTURE CAO PROCUREMENT WOULD FOLLOW THE MODEL OF GENERAL TOUFANIAN'S CONTRACTS FOR THE ARMED FORCES. HE HAS ALREADY BEGUN ASKING FOR AFFIDAVITS FROM CONTRACTORS CERTIFYING THAT NO AGENT FEES HAVE BEEN PAID.

8. HADJMONIRI IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DELAYS IN SCHEDULE FOR THE NEW TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. HE PLANS TO SEE PLAN AND BUDGET CHIEF MAJIDI THIS WEEK TO SEE IF HE CAN GET FUNDS TO SPEED UP CONSTRUCTION START. ALTHOUGH HE SHOWED EMBOFFS CHART SHOWING PROJECTED STARTS (AND DELAYS) ON TIA PHASES, HADJMONIRI WOULD NOT PREDICT A DATE WHEN HE WOULD BE SEEKING BIDS FOR TIA CONSTRUCTION.

9. HADJMONIRI SAID THAT HE FAVORS FLEET CONSISTENCY IN IRAN AIR FLEET PLANNING AND DOES NOT FAVOR PURCHASE OF BRITISH-FRENCH WIDE-BODY AIRBUS FOR DOMESTIC USE. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT NEW DGCA WILL DISSUADE IRAN AIR FROM AIRBUS PURCHASES, PARTICULARLY IF, AS WE ASSUME, THESE PURCHASES ARE POLITICAL GESTURE OF CONSOLATION FROM DROPPING PLANS TO BUY CONCORDES.

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10. OF HIMSELF, HADJMONIRI SAYS HE SPENT 30 YEARS IN THE IIAF, PRIMARILY AS A FIGHTER PILOT, RETIRING AS A COLONEL. HE WAS PERSONAL PILOT TO H.I.M. THE SHAH AT ONE TIME AND SAYS HE WILL HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO THE SHAH. HE EXPECTS TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE ON NOV 20TH, AT WHICH TIME HE WILL BE APPOINTED VICE-MINISTER OF WAR, AS WELL AS DGCA, EXACTLY AS WAS CASE WITH HIS PREDECESSOR ARBABI.

11. ARABI, ON NOV 17, CAUTIONED EMBOFFS AGAINST ACCEPTING
HADJMONIRI'S WORDS AT FACE VALE. ARABI FEELS THAT HADJMONIRI WILL
FOLLOW WHATEVER INE GENERAL KHADEMI, IRAN AIR MANAGING DIR,
DICTATES. ARABI IS PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT HIS OWN DISMISSAL.
PRIMIN HOVEYDA PHONED ARABI AND INVITED HIM TO CALL ON NOV 21ST.
ARABI EXPECTS HE WILL BE OFFERED A NEW POSITION, PEYAPS AN
AMBASSADORSHIP.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN11526
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760429-1190
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761134/aaaabdbd.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TEHRAN 11223
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR - NEW IRANIAN DGCA HADJMONIRI
TAGS: EAIR, IR, (HADJMONIRI, MEHDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006